

# 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*Better Together:  
Building strong, healthy, and resilient communities*

October  
5th - 7th, 2021  
Soldotna, AK





The landscape architect wanted to create a place that looked like her seaside forest community and paid tribute to its unique heritage. The community wanted to welcome the families who visit their village every day and a playful space that welcomed children of all abilities. We brought them together to help them love to play and to love their playground.

**Great places to play by  
Great Western Recreation.**



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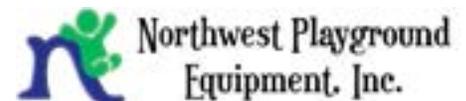
# WELCOME TO SOLDOTNA

## WELCOME TO SOLDOTNA!



most common neighborhood playgrounds were some of our most exclusive environments. With 1 in 4 Americans experiencing disability, communities across the country are striving to change this landscape. Experiencing her first playground at 24 years old, this session shares Jill's own story of growing up with a disability, competing in wheelchair racing, and jumping into a career all about play without having experienced the most common formative play scape. Adaptive recreation provides many with independence, developmental skills and a positive outlook, but the playground is where it all begins, where we find our social equity, and how we ensure everyone is invited to play.

## THANK YOU 2021 ARPA CONFERENCE SPONSORS!



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## 2021 Alaska Recreation & Parks Association Conference General Schedule

"Better Together: Building Strong, Healthy, and Resilient Communities"

Title Sponsors: Great Western Recreation & Gametime Playgrounds

### Tuesday, October 5th, 2021

8:30 am - 4:30 pm	Pre- Conference	Turf Maintenance Training (Optional, Additional \$60) Sponsor: Craig Taylor & Totem Equipment
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Pre- Conference	ARPA Board of Directors Training (MyRec Recreation Software)
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Kenai River Brewing	Unofficial networking at Kenai River Brewing Company

### Wednesday, October 6th, 2021

Time		Room 1	Room 2	Room 3
7:00 am - 8:30 am	Registration, Coffee & Refreshments	Enjoy a fresh cup of coffee with Declination Roasting Company and light breakfast refreshments from Lucy's Market in the Vendor Lounge.		
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Education Session 1	Project Drawdown: Climate Solutions for Parks & Rec - Katilin Vadla	What is new in Diabetes - Robin Benton	Leveraging Private/Public Partnerships - Matt Steffy
9:45 am - 10:45 am	Education Session 2	NRPA, ARPA, & CPRP - Mike Ilg, Nick Farline, Donnie Hayes	Case Study in Aquatic Emergencies - Joe Stefanyak	Army Recreation in Alaska - Dan Cain
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Education Session 3	The Long Trail - Alaska Trails	Back Injury Prevention & Trends - Amira Goldstein - AMLJIA	Valdez Eco-Stewardship Program (VESP) - Nick Farline & Gabriella Paliko
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Keynote Lunch	Keynote Speaker: Luc Mehl, local Alaskan adventurer and author Catering: Where It's At		
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm	Education Session 4	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan - Ricky Gease & Alaska Trails	Value of the Learn to Skate Program - Madalyn McEwen	Inclusive Nature of Rope Play - Berliner Playground Equipment (2 hours)
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Education Session 5	Levitt Foundation & Music in the Park - Soldotna Chamber	How round is your own wellness wheel? - Robin Benton	
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Conference Rooms	Vendor Lounge Reception Sponsor: Berliner Equipment & Northwest Playground		
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	SRSC Ice Arena	All Conference Social Event: Sponsor Kenai River Brewing Co. Keg Curling & Broomball in the ice arena so dress warm. Dinner will be provided.		

### Thursday, October 7th, 2021

Time		Room 1	Room 2	Room 3
8:00 am - 9:30 am	Coffee & Refreshments	Coffee and light breakfast in the Vendor Lounge.		
9:30 am - 10:30 am	Education Session 6	Meals Hill Master Planning - Nick Farline & Dr. Holland	Verbal Jujutsu - Greg Russell	Managing Health & Safety - Amira Goldstein - AMLJIA
10:45 am - 11:45 am	Education Session 7	Kenai Peninsula- More than just Alaska's Playground - Tim Dillon KPEDD	Aquatic Emergency Action Plan - Joe Stefanyak	Rink Rats Round Table - Andrew Carmichael
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm	Lunch	Pack a lunch for the Tour - Catering: Odie's Deli		
12:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Education Session 8 Off-Site Tours	<b>Playground &amp; Pool Tour:</b> Spend the afternoon visiting multiple playgrounds and a pool facility with playground reps, parks directors and landscape architects. Sponsored by Playcraft.		<b>Trails Tour:</b> Jump on a bike and explore the local trails with a guide and learn about trail design and maintenance.
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Silent Auction	Conference Rooms: Silent auction and social hour		
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Awards Banquet & Annual Meeting	Conference Rooms: Awards Banquet & Annual Meeting Sponsored: Exerplay - Catering: Where It's at		

### Friday, October 8th, 2021

Time		Room 1	Room 2	Room 3
9:00 am - 10:30 am	Board Meeting	ARPA Board of Directors Meeting		



# SPECIAL EVENTS

2021 ARPA Conference

## TUESDAY - OCT 5TH

**Turf Workshop 8:30-4:30 PM**

Learn techniques for working with unique Alaska turf challenges.  
Sponsored by Totem & Craig Taylor Equipment

**Networking 6:00-8:00 pm**

Join us at the Kenai River Brewing Company for some unofficial networking before the conference kicks off.

## WEDNESDAY - OCT 6TH

**Keynote Speaker 12:00-2:00 pm**

Local Alaskan adventurer and author Luc Mehl shares stories of his travels by foot, skis, bike, packrafts, and ice skates.

**Vendor Lounge 4:00-6:00 pm**

Join our amazing sponsors and vendors for a reception sponsored by Northwest Playgrounds.

**Keg Curling & Broomball 6:00-9:00 pm**

This is an all conference social event that will include dinner, keg curling, broomball, and other activities in the ice rink so dress warm.

## THURSDAY - OCT 7TH

**Off-site Tours 12:00-4:30 pm**

Two off-site tours to choose from; Playgrounds & Pool Tour Sponsored by Playcraft will visit four locations in the area or Trails, Trails will use Mtn. bikes to travel and learn on local trails. Both tours will be mostly outdoors so dress for the weather.

**Awards Banquet 6:00-9:00 pm**

Annual meeting and awards banquet sponsored by Exerplay





## PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING

# TURF WORKSHOP

Learn techniques for working with unique Alaska turf challenges as well as participate in a half-day hands-on project converting forest to green space at Riverview Park with turf specific equipment provided by Totem & Craig Taylor Equipment

**Tuesday, October 5th, 2021**  
**8:30 am to 4:30 pm**  
**\$60.00 (lunch provided)**  
**Soldotna Regional Sports Complex**  
**Register today 907-714-1211**

**Classroom Session:** 8:30 am to Noon

Learn from the locals on specific turf needs for Alaska including winterization, operational efficiency, high use areas, and other secrets of the trade.

**Hands-On Session:** 12:30 am to 4:30 pm

Get dirty and test turf specific equipment from Totem & Craig Taylor as we transform forest to turf in Riverview park.

- Steve Booth - Booth Landscaping
- Nancy Casey - Casey Planning & Design
- Andrew Carmichael - Soldotna Parks & Recreation
- Totem Equipment & Craig Taylor Equipment



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# SESSION #1

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

WEDNESDAY - OCT. 6TH, 2021

## PROJECT DRAWDOWN CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR PARKS & REC

ROOM 1

KAITLIN VADLA - COOK INLETKEEPER

How can parks and recreation opportunities make Alaskan communities more resilient? More food and energy secure? This session will explore ways in which Parks & Rec Departments can be part of unexpected solutions that effectively address local climate impacts such as Alaska's warming salmon streams. Participants will get an inside look at a successful community-based process that led to three effective solutions on the Kenai Peninsula, all of which reduced emissions and improved the quality of life for locals.

## WHAT IS NEW IN DIABETES

ROOM 2

PROFESSOR ROBIN BENTON - SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

34.2 million Americans have Diabetes, including 210,000 kids (CDC). Recreation providers need to be prepared for participants with diabetes in their programs. This program will review the basics of diabetes, both Type 1, insulin and Type 2, non-insulin dependent. The basics of diabetic emergency management will be discussed as well as new technologies used in blood sugar management.

- understand the basics of diabetes, its prevalence, and basics of blood sugar management
- be prepared to develop or update their diabetes emergency care plans
- be familiar with strategies to support participants with diabetes.

## PARTNERING FOR PROSPERITY

ROOM 3

MATT STEFFY - PARKS SUPERINTENDENT CITY OF HOMER

Common Ground, Common Language, Common Goals: Partnering between public and private entities is important to leverage all available resources for both projects and programming. This session will cover the basic principles for all partnerships as well as some tools to navigate those principles. What works and what needs to be avoided? We will discuss some success stories and share some cautionary tales.

## **NRPA, ARPA, & CPRP**

**ROOM 1**

**MIKE ILLG. DONNIE HAYES. NICHOLAS FAIRLINE**

Get the inside scoop on how and why you should get more involved with Alaska Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA), National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) or earn your Certified Parks Professional Certificate (CPRP). These are three great ways to gain new experiences, make a difference in the recreation community outside your bubble and help with advancement in your recreation career.

## **AQUATIC EMERGENCIES**

**ROOM 2**

**JOE STEFANYAK - ELLIS & ASSOCIATES**

A case study of an aquatic emergency. This session will take a look at Operational Practices and Emergency Care as it relates to the aquatic environment and an aquatic incident, and will discuss the details of a specific event, the care provided, and the results/outcomes of the incident itself. Be ready for a critical look at what you do.

- Attendees will be able to identify causal factors related to a past incident
- Attendees will be able to explain the outcomes of past incidents and how the incident details had an effect on outcomes
- Attendees will apply learning to the evaluation of their operation

## **ARMY RECREATION IN ALASKA**

**ROOM 3**

**DANIEL CAIN. CPRP - CHIEF. COMMUNITY RECREATION**

Peer over the fence and learn a bit about Army Recreation in general and specifically what we do and where we are in Alaska. You may have a possible partner closer than you think.

- Learn about the United States Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Program.
- Learn how to partner with Army Recreation to support soldiers and their families in your community.

# SESSION #3

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

WEDNESDAY - OCT. 6TH, 2021

## ALASKA LONG TRAIL

ROOM 1

MARIYAM MEDOVAYA - ALASKA TRAILS

The Alaska Long Trail is an outdoor recreation project aiming to produce a world-class, multi-use 500-mile route connecting Fairbanks and Seward for use by residents and visitors. The concept is spearheaded by Alaska Trails with strong support from a broad coalition of partners across Alaska. Long Trails like the Appalachian or the Pacific Crest Trail have a proven power to attract people from all over the planet, creating more reasons for visitors to spend time and money in Alaska communities and with Alaska businesses. The presentation will give updates on the status of the trail planning, funding, construction-ready segments, and next steps.

## BACK INJURY PREVENTION

ROOM 2

AMIRA GOLDSTEIN - ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE JOINT INSURANCE ASSOC.

This presentation is designed for Maintenance and Laborer staff and will include Parks & Recreation loss trends and a discussion on back injury and strain, as this is the most frequent claim type associated with P&R employees in Alaska. This discussion will include back injury prevention and safe lifting techniques.

- Over 1 million American workers suffer back injuries annually, and back pain accounts for more than 264 million lost workdays each year
- 80% of adults will experience a back injury in their lifetime.
- Americans spend at least \$50 billion annually on treating back pain.

## VALDEZ ECO-STEWARDSHIP

ROOM 3

NICHOLAS FARLINE. CPRE - DIRECTOR - CITY OF VALDEZ

GABRIELLA PALKO - VALDEZ ECO- STEWARDSHIP PORGRAM

Valdez Eco-stewardship Program (VESP) is an innovative, blended natural resource education approach to engage high school students in summer municipal parks and recreation programs. This program offers a six-week opportunity for selective high school students to receive three college credits, one high school credit, a stipend, and valuable work experience with professionals across multiple fields.

- How to define innovation within the context of summer programming.
- Development of a dual-credit college and high school program.
- Use natural resource education as the vehicle to develop critical life skills

2021 ARPA Conference

# LUC MEHL

Keynote Speaker

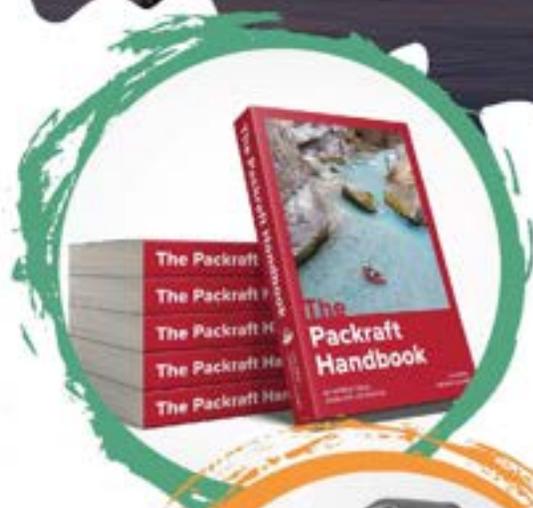
## Multisport Adventures

Starting with a childhood on the banks of the Kuskokwim River, Luc has traveled over 10,000 miles of Alaska on foot, bike, skis, packraft, and ice skates. Join us to hear how access to Alaska's parks and local recreation facilities helped inspire his passion for adventure.



## Packrafting Handbook

In 2014, Luc lost a friend in a packraft drowning. That loss forced Luc to re-evaluate his relationship with water, motivated him to re-learn how to paddle, get trained, and then teach swiftwater safety, and ultimately write *The Packraft Handbook*.



Wednesday \* October 6th \* Noon

# SESSION #4

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

WEDNESDAY - OCT. 6TH, 2021

## SCORP UPDATE

ROOM 1

RICKY GEASE - ALASKA DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MARIYAM MEDOVAYA - ALASKA TRAILS

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is one concise document that has the potential to guide outdoor recreation development decisions in the state for the next five years. This current SCORP update led by the NPS River, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program and overseen by the AK DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, with assistance from the Alaska Trails Initiative, provides the long overdue opportunity for a legitimate, comprehensive, project-focused, locally driven process for guiding investments and strategies for outdoor recreation.

## ISI LEARN TO SKATE PROGRAM

ROOM 2

MADALYN MCEWEN - SOLDOTNA PARKS & RECREATION

ISI's Recreational Ice Skater Test Programs are used worldwide, has accepted standards, and has been developed for those who skate for recreation, and enjoyment, for fun, and pleasure. It appeals to first-time skaters because it teaches movements they can master almost immediately. It provides achievable objectives with immediate results.

- The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports has rated ice skating as one of the best sports for maintaining physical fitness
- Ice skating can be enjoyed for a lifetime. ISI skaters range in ages from two to eighty-plus.

## INCLUSIVE NATURE OF ROPE PLAY (TWO HOUR SESSION)

ROOM 3

AVERY CROTEAU - BERLINER PLAY EQUIPMENT

JIM PROTIVA - NORTHWEST PLAYGROUND

This presentation highlights the inclusive nature of rope play. Learn the role of ADA in play and what truly defines an inclusive play environment from the playground to the parking lot.

- Discover out-of-the-box play solutions that foster physical, social, and cognitive development for all children!
- What is inclusive play and the difference between accessible and inclusive playgrounds?

## **BUILDING COMMUNITY WITH FREE LIVE MUSIC**

**ROOM 1**

**SHANON DAVIS - SOLDOTNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Summertime in Soldotna is Alaska, Amplified. The Levitt AMP Soldotna Music Series is a public/private partnership that provides 13 free live concerts in the heart of Soldotna every Wednesday, June-August. These concerts transcend socio-economic barriers and unite our community socially and civically, bringing thousands together every week. Learn the ins and outs of planning and executing a concert series for your town: the good, the bad, and the FABULOUS.

## **HOW ROUND IS YOUR OWN WELLNESS WHEEL**

**ROOM 2**

**PROFESSOR ROBIN BENTON - SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY**

Self-care and resilience have taken on front-page news and clinical research studies in the past decade. Covid-19 has sharpened this focus.

This session will discuss the components of wellness, and how each contributes to our health & resilience. Three popular models will be provided, for individual adoption.

- Understand the interrelatedness and importance of wellness components.
- Be familiar with and able to apply a wellness model
- Increased awareness of tools for goal setting, stress management, and personal satisfaction

## **INCLUSIVE NATURE OF ROPE PLAY (TWO HOUR SESSION - CONTIUNED)**

**ROOM 3**

**AVERY CROTEAU - BERLINER PLAY EQUIPMENT**

**JIM PROTIVA - NORTHWEST PLAYGROUND**

This presentation highlights the inclusive nature of rope play. Learn the role of ADA in play and what truly defines an inclusive play environment from the playground to the parking lot.

- Discover out-of-the-box play solutions that foster physical, social, and cognitive development for all children!
- What is inclusive play and the difference between accessible and inclusive playgrounds?

# KEG CURLING & BROOM BALL



**ALL CONFERENCE  
SOCIAL EVENT  
WEDNESDAY  
6 PM TO 9 PM**

**Pizza & Salad from  
Pizza Boys**

**Beverages from  
Kenai River Brewing**



# KEEP ARPA CONFERENCE HEALTHY

Thank You

Wash your  
dirty  
hands!

If you feel  
sick, stay  
home

Keep 6 feet  
away from  
your  
friends

Masks are  
required at  
all times



# SESSION #6

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

THURSDAY - OCT. 7TH, 2021

## MEALS HILL MASTER PLANNING

ROOM 1

NICHOLAS FARLINE - CITY OF VALDEZ

DR. HOLLAND - PARKS AND PEOPLE

How do we create a plan that successfully enables the management of municipal nature-based recreation areas, while allowing a comprehensive understanding of community values? Parks and People founder Dr. William Hunter Holland will present the conceptual framework for investigating the range of attitudes toward nature and the findings from the Meals Hill Master Plan survey. In addition, City of Valdez Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director Nicholas Farline will describe how to utilize this information and translate the findings into actionable planning practices.

## VERBAL JUDO TACTICAL COMMUNICATION

ROOM 2

CHIEF GREG RUSSELL- RUSSELL CONSULTING, LLC & AMLJIA

This tactical communication course is designed to help you maintain your own personal safety by using appropriate presence and word options. Principles and tactics will be taught to enable you to calm difficult people who may be under severe emotional and other influences. Verbal Judo teaches a philosophy of how to look creatively at conflict, offering specific, powerful, and usable strategies to resolve tense situations.

## MANAGING HEALTH & SAFETY

ROOM 3

AMIRA GOLDSTEIN - AMLJIA

This presentation, designed for Directors and Managers, will be a discussion on managing health and safety through management commitment and employee involvement; worksite analysis; hazard prevention and control; and safety and health training.

- A brief overview of loss trends of Alaska Park and Recreation employees throughout the years.
- Analyzing frequency and severity based on injury type and the workers' compensation costs associated with incident claims.

## **ECONOMICS OF RECREATION ON THE KENAI PENINSULA**

**ROOM 1**

**TIM DILLON - KENAI PENINSULA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

The Kenai Peninsula Borough is one of the most economically and geographically diverse regions in Alaska. Covering more than 24,752 square miles, residents enjoy a high quality of life with abundant recreational resources, state-of-the-art medical facilities, affordable housing, short commute times, and strong community ties. Learn how Parks & Recreation plays a vital role in all aspects of a community's economic strength.

## **EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**

**ROOM 2**

**JOE STEFANYAK - ELLIS & ASSOCIATES**

This session will provide an overview of good risk management practices as they relate to EAPs. This includes discussion on identifying potential incidents, training and equipment needs, EAP Fundamentals and Algorithm, documenting the EAP, making the EAP work, and evaluation of your EAP.

- Identify potential incidents that may require inclusion in the EAP.
- Training and equipment needs to execute the EAP.
- Identify proper means by which to evaluate your EAP, both prior to an incident occurring, and after an incident has occurred.

## **RINK RATS ROUNDTABLE**

**ROOM 3**

**ANDREW CARMICHAEL - SOLDOTNA PARKS & RECREATION**

Better Together - learn best practices for programming, marketing, risk management, human resources, ice making, equipment operations, energy efficiency, safety and all other aspects of operating a successful ice rink. We will take a small tour of our facility.

THURSDAY 12:30-4:30 PM

## EDUCATION SESSION #7

# OFF-SITE TOURS

### PLAYGROUNDS & POOL

Spend the afternoon visiting several local playgrounds and a pool in Soldotna, Kenai & Nikiski with representatives from several playground manufactures and local managers. A large bus will transport us around but bring warm clothes as we will be outside often.

Sponsored by Playcraft! Thank You.



### TRAILS, TRAILS, TRAILS

Jump on a rental bike from Beemun's Bike Loft and explore the local trails with a guide. Learn about different trail designs, funding sources, and maintenance difficulties. Must be comfortable riding several hours in the winter weather.

Sponsored by Beemun's Bike Loft

## Simplify Recreation Management

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ACCOUNTS



PRODUCTS



RENTALS



ONLINE REGISTRATION



# ARPA CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



## KAITLIN VADLA

**COOK INLETKEEPER - REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

Kaitlin Vadla grew up in Alaska and is an outdoor recreation enthusiast, from skiing and cycling to hunting and fishing. She helped found BIK&S (Biking in Kenai & Soldotna), which achieved bike-friendly city designations for both Soldotna and Kenai. She spearheaded a Drawdown community dialogue series that focused on finding effective solutions to reduce emissions and make life better for residents. This year, she hand-illustrated an Actionkit for Alaskans to implement local climate solutions, which conference attendees can download for free at [www.inletkeeper.org/actionkit](http://www.inletkeeper.org/actionkit).



## ROBIN BENTON

**SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY - PROFESSOR OF AQUATIC MANAGEMENT**

Robin Benton, Aquatic Management Professor, registered nurse, NREMT, teaches a variety of recreation, rescue, and aquatic courses drawing on an extensive history in emergency response. A nationally recognized speaker, author of industry and peer reviewed publications, Robin includes technical knowledge with practical experience.



## MATT STEFFY

**CITY OF HOMER - PARKS SUPERINTENDENT**

Matt Steffy is the Parks Superintendent for the City of Homer. He has been working in Parks & Recreation in Alaska for over 20 years, including stints at the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the City of Valdez. He has played a central role in managing a large variety of partnerships across a broad range of services, including trails projects, playground installations, skate park development, aurora viewing, food trucks, and many more.



## JOE STEFANYAK

**ELLIS & ASSOCIATES - SENIOR DIRECTOR**

Joe began his career in the Theme Park/Waterpark industry in 1985, more than 30 years ago, as a 16 year-old high school senior, working for the Kennywood Entertainment Company at Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Joe's current responsibilities with E&A include working closely with over 750 municipalities, corporate and private waterparks, and water resorts throughout the US and in various countries abroad, in the evaluation and implementation of standard operating procedures, operational aquatic safety audits, evaluation of facility Emergency Action Plans, and related services.



## DANIEL CAIN - CPRP

**USAG ALASKA DEPT OF THE ARMY - CHIEF. COMMUNITY RECREATION**

Dan joined the Illinois Army National Guard at age 17 to help pay for college, ultimately receiving a Master's degree in Recreation Parks and Tourism Administration from Western Illinois University. Dan went to work for the Army as a raft guide at Fort Carson, Colorado. Now, with nearly 30 years of government service, Dan is the Chief of Community Recreation for USAG Alaska, encompassing all Army run recreation in Alaska including programs at Fort Greely, Valdez and Seward Military Resort. In his free time, Dan enjoys all things outdoors, martial arts and rugby..... and a good sauna session.



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- Park musical equipment
- Site amenities, and more!

# ARPA CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



## MARIYAM MEDOVAYA

### ALASKA TRAILS - PROGRAM STAFF ALASKA TRAILS INITIATIVE

Mariyam joined Alaska Trails in 2019 as the Alaska Trails Initiative Staff. She has a diverse background including guiding for an ecotourism business, developing interpretive programs with US Forest Service, and work with World Wildlife Fund. Mariyam also holds a MS in Marine Environment Sciences from Stony Brook University as well as a MA in Cultural Geography from U of Colorado.



## AMIRA GOLDSTEIN

### ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE JOINT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION - RISK CONTROL SPECIALIST

She graduated with a Bachelor's in Psychology followed by an Associate's degree in Occupational Safety and Health both from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Amira is a lifelong Alaskan, born in Bethel and raised in Anchorage. She has worked as a Risk Control Specialist for the Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association for the past 3 years providing services to municipalities, boroughs, and school districts across Alaska.



## NICHOLAS FARLINE - CPRE

### CITY OF VALDEZ - PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

Nicholas Farline earned his B.A. in Economics from Eastern Washington University, and a M.S. in Recreation and Sport Pedagogy from Ohio University. Mr. Farline has over 20 years of experience in the recreation field. He currently is a board member of ARPA, and holds a NRPA Certified Park and Recreation Executive certification. Mr. Farline has directed outdoor recreation programs internationally as well as for multiple municipal and state agencies.



## GABRIELLA PALKO

### CITY OF VALDEZ - VALDEZ ECO- STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ( VESP)

Gabriella Palko works at the intersection of culture, outdoor recreation, and the environment. A Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Policy from Colorado College and several years working in sustainability, Gabriella works to bring just, equitable, and sustainable outdoor opportunities to Valdez, Alaska. She has led several youth outdoor education programs for Valdez Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services including the inaugural Valdez Eco Stewardship Program, where she created and taught a region-specific climate change curriculum.



## RICKY GEASE

### DNR - DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION - DIRECTOR

Ricky Gease is the Director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources for the State of Alaska. He has a 30 plus year career in natural and cultural resource management, a Master's Degree in Biology from Stanford University, works in the DNR office of the Atwood Building in Anchorage during the week, and resides in Kenai with his wife Bunny Swan.

# ARPA CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

## MADALYN MCEWEN

### SOLDOTNA PARKS & RECREATION - ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

Madalyn McEwen: CSD Certified Skating Director, Gold Rated instructor, Certified Referee Madalyn is a lifelong Alaska resident born and raised in Anchorage. Madalyn has been teaching skating for over 45 years, has traveled as far away as Hong Kong and as close as Anchorage taking students to competitions. Her dedication and love of children and skating is the fuel that drives her year after year. She has been the Skating Director at the Soldotna Regional Sports Complex for the last 26 years. In the summertime, Madalyn supervises the city's campgrounds.



## AVERY CROTEAU

### BERLINER PLAY EQUIPMENT - DIRECTOR OF SALES

After receiving his bachelor's degree in 2005 in Recreation Management and Tourism, the early years of his career were dedicated to parks and recreation in the municipal and non-profit sectors. For the past ten years, Avery has worked in the aquatic, fitness, and playground industries, assisting communities across the country in building active, vibrant spaces. As Director of Sales for Berliner, a rope play equipment manufacturer, Avery can share the first-hand experience as well as insight into the safety, risk, and common misconceptions with regards to rope-based play equipment.



## JIM PROTIVA

### NORTHWEST PLAYGROUND ( NPEI) - PARK CONSULTANT

Jim has been with NPEI for nearly twenty-five years as either a customer or employee. Jim brings extensive experience in Director level municipal government, park design and construction, and creative insight for all parties. He holds a CPSI and CPRP certification, a BS from Radford University in Recreation and Leisure Services, and is a quarter-century member of NRPA. His hobbies include white water rafting, jet boating, snowboarding, and motorcycle riding. He is always ready to get involved with a project or an adventure. Jim believes he is in the business of "putting smiles on people's faces."



## SHANON DAVIS

### SOLDOTNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shanon has 20 years of experience in association management and destination marketing with the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce and as prior Director of the Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council for 12 years. Born and raised in Soldotna, Shanon has built her career around growing consensus and driving cooperative relationships between community leaders in government, business, and the non-profit sector. She has also helped put on more events in Soldotna than anyone in the history of forever.



## DR. WILLIAM HUNTER HOLLAND

### FOUNDER OF PARKS AND PEOPLE

William Hunter Holland, Ph.D., M.S., Assistant Professor University of North Carolina Wilmington, and Founder of Parks and People. William Hunter Holland earned his B.S. in Recreation Management from Appalachian State University, a M.S. in Recreation and Sport Pedagogy from Ohio University with an emphasis in outdoor recreation. He completed his Ph.D. in Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management from Clemson University. Holland worked as a wilderness field instructor and program manager for Alaska Mountain Guides Climbing School Incorporated and the International Wilderness Leadership School.



# Playing in Treetops

Alaska Territory Manager  
Karl Croft: 907-748-3736  
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# ARPA CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

## GREG RUSSELL

### ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE JOINT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

Chief Gregory A. Russell (retired) began his law enforcement career in 1981, working as an undercover drug enforcement officer for the Alaska State Troopers. He worked with the South-central Alaska Narcotics (SCAN) Team, for Soldotna Police Department as a Patrol Officer, as Chief of Police for Kotzebue. Greg is a former Traveling Trainer for the Alaska Police Standards Council, a contract Instructor Trainer for Skid Car System, Inc., a Board Member of the Peninsula Crime Stopper Program, and is a frequent speaker at conferences and special events.



## TIM DILLON

### KENAI PENINSULA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Prior to his appointment with KPEDD, Mr. Dillon spent over seven years as the City Manager for the City of Seldovia. Tim also worked in sport and entertainment for over twenty-five years, including Alaska's 50-year celebration, the NCAA Basketball Tournament, the NCAA Frozen Four, and the Arctic Winter Games. He holds a master's degree from Eastern Kentucky University.



## ANDREW CARMICHAEL

### SOLDOTNA PARKS & RECREATION - DIRECTOR

Andrew came to Alaska in 1989 to work in the Fitness Business after finishing his M.S. in Recreation Management from the University of Idaho. He received his B.S. in Sports Studies from Indiana State after stints at the University of Wyoming and an A.S. Degree in Business from Western Wyoming Community College. His unconventional approach has allowed for a hugely expanded Parks and Recreation program in Soldotna over the last 28 years. Recreation is Andrew's mantra as we take with us only our experiences and the only thing of merit we leave is our legacy. Summarily put, live life to the fullest and pass on your experiences so others may enjoy or avoid.



## NANCY CASEY

### GREAT WESTERN RECREATION AND CASEY PLANNING & DESIGN

Nancy is a Licensed professional Landscape Architect who has practiced in Alaska for over 25 years on projects ranging from large public spaces to small commercial or residential sites. Most designs require at least some amount of mowed lawn for which Nancy is responsible for determining the size & location, grading & drainage, subgrade preparation, edging, and specifications for topsoil, fertilizer, seed mixes, and installation. She is also a new rep for Great Western Recreation.



## DONNIE HAYES - CPRP

### FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH - PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

Donnie Hayes has been involved in Recreation Management for almost two decades. Over the years his love for the sounds of laughing kids, smiling parents, and community fun hasn't waned. He continues to love the joy that comes from providing community members opportunities for growth, excitement, completion, and wholesome fun.



# ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS BANQUET

## ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS BANQUET

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7TH | 6:00PM - 9:00PM

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

6:00 pm	Silent Auction and Social Hour
7:00 pm	Dinner is served
7:30 pm	Annual Meeting and Awards
8:15 pm	Silent Auction closes

### ANNUAL MEETING & PRESENTATION OF 2020 ARPA AWARDS

- I. Call to Order - Welcome of Membership
- II. Approval of the Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting
- III. Action Items
- IV. Reports to Membership
  - A. Treasurer's Report
  - B. Introduction of Committee Chairs
  - C. Membership Committee Report
- V. Installation of Officers
- VI. Presentation of Awards
- VII. Proclamations
- VIII. Open Forum for Member Comments
- IX. Adjourn

# ARPA AWARDS

## ★ PROFESSIONAL AWARD

This is the highest recognition that ARPA can bestow upon a deserving candidate. The person will be carefully chosen. In considering a candidate for the Professional Award, he/she must meet the qualifications as set forth in the criteria for this high award.

## ★ NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD

These professionals are not necessarily the superintendents or leaders that have been visible in the field, but are the “up and coming” leaders. They should possess all of those qualities and talents that will eventually place them in the top leadership, but at this time in their careers, they are climbing.

## ★ BOB ROBERTSON SERVICE AWARD

This award is for service to the Alaska Recreation and Park Association by members of the association. These are the people that volunteer to be on committees, to work with their sections, to help with conferences and workshops and generally are the backbone of the Association. This award was approved by the Board in 1995. It is a Board Award in that the nominees are selected only by the ARPA Board.

## ★ OUTSTANDING BUSINESS PARTNER AWARD

The purpose of this award is to annually recognize one (1) outstanding business partner that has supported ARPA and its mission. This support can be shown in any manner.

## ★ LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

A recipient who receives this award shall have made note-worthy and measureable positive contributions to ARPA. Past recipients have made contributions such as procedures manuals, template formatting, led a specific campaign or training or other such tangible results. While many ARPA members are willing and able to contribute monumental services, a recipient of this LAA has volunteered to serve in the most demanding of offices and ARPA work.

## ★ DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

This achievement award is given to a deserving individual and/or group whose voluntary contribution of time and effort over the years has improved the quality and quantity of leisure opportunities through park, recreation, and conservation projects on the local, state, regional, or national levels.

## ★ OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION AWARD

This award recognizes the agencies, departments, and organizations that make great contributions to their community and to the improvement of recreation in Alaska.

## ★ FACILITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognizes significant new projects, major renovations, or long-term performance as a flagship of recreation. Any facility from any area of recreation, from trails to aquatic centers, is eligible.

## ★ ARPA APPRECIATION AWARD

The rare ARPA Appreciation Award is nominated by an ARPA Board Member who has noted special skills and contributions.

## 2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

### PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Kate Thomas, City of Wrangell Parks & Recreation

### NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Joel Todd, City of Soldotna Parks & Recreation

### BOB ROBERTSON SERVICE AWARD

Lauren Anderson, Juneau Parks & Recreation

### OUTSTANDING BUSINESS PARTNER AWARD

MyRec.com - Ray Foley

### OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION AWARD

Denali Education Center

### FACILITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

City of Valdez Swimming Pool - Valdez Parks & Recreation

# BUILDING COMMUNITY

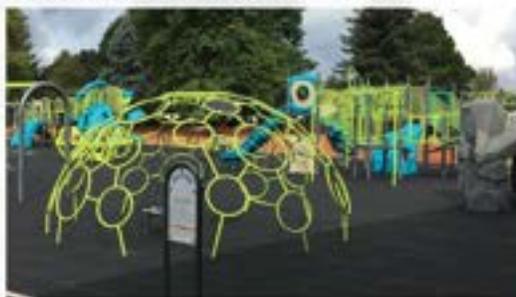
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# ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

## Our Mission

- Providing a forum for interchange of ideas and information among parks, recreation and wildland professionals and supporters;
- Promoting the personal, environmental, social and economic benefits of parks, recreation and wildlands;
- Coordinating, organizing and promoting quality educational opportunities;
- Preparing and providing educational information relating to parks, recreation and wildlands

## Leadership Team



### **PRESIDENT**

Mike Illg  
president@alaskarpa.org



### **PRESIDENT ELECT**

Vacant



### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Daniel Cain  
daniel.e.cain2.naf@mail.mil



### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Donnie Hayes  
donnie.hayes@fnspb.gov



### **SECRETARY**

Kate Thomas  
kthomas@wrangell.com



### **TREASURER**

Tyler Florence  
treasurer@alaskarpa.org



### **MEMBER SERVICES**

Lauren Anderson  
Lauren.Anderson@juneau.org



### **MEMBER AT LARGE |**

Joan Klapperich  
jklapperich@ci.wasilla.ak.us



### **MEMBER AT LARGE ||**

Nick Farline  
NFarline@ValdezAK.Gov



### **MEMBER AT LARGE |||**

Joel Todd  
jtodd@soldotna.org

# ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

## Membership

### **Agency (7 or fewer FTE's) \$95.00**

For agencies, organizations or businesses who employ 7 or fewer Full Time Equivalency positions in the Park & Recreation field. This membership includes the agency, organization or business plus all Park & Recreation employees.

### **Agency (8-20 FTE's) \$245.00**

For agencies, organizations or businesses who employ between 21 and 50 Full Time Equivalency positions in the Park & Recreation field. This membership includes the agency, organization or business plus all Park & Recreation employees.

### **Agency (21-50 FTE's) \$495.00**

For agencies, organizations or businesses who employ between 21 and 50 Full Time Equivalency positions in the Park & Recreation field. This membership includes the agency, organization or business plus all Park & Recreation employees.

### **Agency (51 or more FTE's) \$907.00**

For agencies, organizations or businesses who employ more than 51 Full Time Equivalency positions in the Park & Recreation field. This membership includes the agency, organization or business plus all Park & Recreation employees.

### **Professional Membership (Individual) \$49.00**

Persons currently retired from a recreation, leisure or related profession are eligible for a Professional Membership.

### **Lifetime Membership \$490.00**

Persons eligible for Professional or Citizen Membership may become Life Members.

## Scholarships

ARPA currently offers 6 scholarships per year (December 1 - November 30) of up to \$500 each in the following categories: 3 individual scholarships to assist with attendance at the ARPA Annual Conference (allowable expenses include travel, registration fees and/or hotel and 3 individual scholarships to assist with professional development (any certification/education relating to the Parks & Recreation field with preference given to NRPA programs). Scholarship requests are open only to current ARPA members in good standing. Scholarships may be awarded to an individual in each category once every two years.



# Alaska

Recreation and Park Association

